

May 29 1946

Mr Wm O Laughlin
92 Newton St.
Newark N.J.

Dear Mr OLaughlin:

Please pardon my delay in writing you, and sending the enclosed check. The fact is, I have been hoping we would have one good day at the ballpark. As you know the weather has been pretty awful. In addition I had hoped to have a talk with you.

Now about the ammount of money involved, I have never felt that I was paying the band for services rendered when I sent the check to them for taking part in the opening day cerdmonies at the ballpark. The ammount of money is so little, I know no musician would hire himself out for the little money he receives from me. I always felt the band enjoyed taking part in the opening day program. I thought it was regarded as a big cumunity event that meant something to so many Negro's that all race conscience people wanted to see it survive. I do not expect you or any one else to be concerned with the good or bad sence of my investment in baseball, but I do not mind telling you, it is a very big gamble, and not what it looks like to the public.

I am saying all this to you, because I do not like the thought of each year being asked for more money. If the band has developed a commercial feeling where the ball game is concerned, maybe we will have to despence with all the cerimonies and open with a doubleheader like all the other teams do. Newark is the only one of the teams that has all the fan fare and color on opening day, and the reason I do it is because I think it has grown to be important to our people, and they look foward to it. On the other hand I have to think of my business interest, and believe me the baseball is not the money making proposition people on the outside think it is.

I hope you and the members of the band understand the tone in which this letter is written. Thanks again for all past favors.

Very Truly Yours